

Sustainable Energy Committee - Minutes
Great Hall at Town Hall
Friday, January 21, 2011
7:45 am – 9:05 am

Committee Members Present:

Suzy Littlefield, Chair
Richard Joyce
Christopher Ketchen
Scott Bender
Robert Cooper
Beth DeSombre
Ellen Korpi
Molly Fairchild, Sustainable Energy Coordinator

Meeting called to order at 7:45 am

Citizen Speak: No one present.

Minutes: postponed

Business: *Friday, January 21, 2011*

Snow Day - Ms Littlefield suggested that, in the future, SEC meetings will be cancelled if Wellesley Public Schools are cancelled. Cancellation can be sent to your cell phone by registering for community notifications (Nixle system) on the Police Department's page of the Wellesley Town website.

WMS Solar Panels and the Voluntary Renewable Energy Program – Mr Joyce reported that there was consensus from the MLP Board to go forward with the innovative program to work with the SEC to develop a challenge for WMS families to participate in the VREP program to support the installation of Solar panels on WMS .The MLP will handle all of the project details and funding including the necessary structural analysis of the roof. Mr Joyce will provide a cost-benefit analysis explaining the preferred model of holding the REC's to the MLP Board. Francisco Frias has completed an assessment of the optimal placement of the array, in proximity to the electrical room (on the left-side of the building closer to Kingsbury Street). As with the installation on the MLP roof, the array will be weighted, to the roof so the roof will not be penetrated. John Moran is facilitating the structural analysis by providing existing information for the building. Once the structural analysis is completed the Building Inspector and the PBC will be consulted for any further guidance.

SunBugSolar program at Wellesley College – Ms DeSombre reported that this program was developed to offer WC faculty (and staff?) a reduced rate (5%) for solar panels as a part of the installation adjacent to the playing fields. The program has not been widely publicized, so she will follow-up with the college to facilitate making this information more readily available to those who may be interested.

GroundedPower- Surveys –Mr Bender shared summary statistics for the GroundedPower Pilot, showing 10% reduction in energy use by participants compared to the previous year. There was no correlation between monthly energy use and change in energy use – or said another way – reductions in energy use occurred in both high users and low users. A close correlation was seen between level of participation (frequency of consulting the website) and energy reduction.

Response to the residential Survey is 11/30 so far. Mr Joyce indicated that a survey has also been developed for Grounded Power management to report their perspective in administering the project.

Transportation – Mr Ketchen reported on the progress being made by the Transportation Committee (2 Selectmen: Ellen Gibbs, and Owen Dugan, 2 Planners: Meghan Jopp and Michael Zehner, Frank DeMasi and Mr Ketchen and Ms Fairchild.) The committee has used a portion of the Funds from the Linden Square Development Funds for consultation from the Boston MPO to provide data analyses. We also have developed surveys for residents, Town employees and the colleges. When the surveys are completed in mid-February the Committee will synthesize the information to make recommendations to the Selectmen and provide a summary to TM

There are two types of barriers to the development of public transportation – financial, and policy or institutional. The requirement to provide para-transit (now provided as The Ride by the MBTA). If we had a public transit bus we would be required to also provide para-transit, and the MBTA funds from the Towns Transit assessment would be redirected to the RTA, therefore the RTA would lose our assessment but also lose the expense of providing the ride. Ms Fairchild added that improved connectivity to the 3 Commuter rail stops will also benefit the MBTA.

Stretch Energy Code – Amendment - Mr Ketchen explained that the Article is on the warrant for ATM, we will continue to work with DOER to clarify the details of wording.

Public Hearings are scheduled for Tues January 25th at 7:30 pm at TH and Saturday January 29th at 9:00 am in the Police Station Meeting room. Announcements have gone out to TM Members as well as a list of building professionals, and a notice in the Townsman,

Mr Joyce reported on a related issue that there is new Legislation being filed to return the monies paid into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (“RGGI”) by 40 Massachusetts Public Power systems.

The estimated annual payment for Wellesley is \$250,000 (\$1.00/MWH). Currently RGGI funds from Wellesley customers are given to investor-owned utilities or used to fund projects outside of the Town. Representative, Alice Peisch has already responded that she would support this legislation.

Ms Littlefield suggested that the SEC write a letter of support to Wellesley’s State Senators and Representative.

The MLP Board will also be sending a letter of support.

Community Outreach

Green School – Ms Fairchild reported that the green classroom certification checklist is still being developed, and as a result of the WMS energy audit TH initiatives, space heaters and refrigerators may be part of the checklist.

Mr Joyce mentioned that some companies are now offering to take care of obtaining the Federal Tax credit for the customer – so much of the logistics of permitting and financing hamper the process. Ms Littlefield recommended that the issue of process for permitting be addressed by the Selectmen.

MLP has prioritized funding municipal projects,

Mr Bender mentioned net-metering at a premium price (equivalent to VREP price).

Mr Bender suggested moving the meetings to a location where we can use the smart board, rather than having to print documents. Ms Fairchild will check with Mr Ketchen (who had to leave a few minutes earlier) about the best location / system

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 am

Next SEC Meeting: Friday February 4, 2011 7:45 am -9:00 am